

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING DR. CHARLES
LEMAISTRE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Dr. Charles LeMaistre after he passed away this January at 92.

Charles was the president of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center until 1996 when he retired. He was a charismatic physician and educator who focused much of his career on cancer prevention. Charles emphasized the dangers of smoking and served on the first U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health. He was also the national president of the American Cancer Society. Ronald DePinho, the current president of MD Anderson, described Charles as "one of the giants of cancer medicine." Charles' legacy will live on and continue to save lives. His dedication to healthcare innovation will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, we mourn the loss of Dr. Charles LeMaistre. He truly was a beloved Texan. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE BATANGAS AND SOUTHERN TAGALOG ASSOCIATION OF GUAM ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and achievements of the Batangas and Southern Tagalog Association (BASTA) of Guam to the Guam community for the past forty years. The small organization was established on July 16, 1977 as the Batangas Association by Eddie Espina, Rey Gonzalves, Marcy Manipol, and Ronnie Saludo. Over the past forty years, the group has worked hard to fulfill its mission as a non-profit, civic club promoting friendship and understanding among the Batanguenos community and other residents of Guam.

The organization grew steadily over the years, and in 1984 the board opened its membership to embrace Filipinos in the club from surrounding provinces and soon became the Batangas and Southern Tagalog Association. BASTA membership is now open to a wider group of people from various islands in the Philippines including Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Aurora, Quezon, Palawan, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Marinduque, and Romblon. Members of BASTA have chosen to make Guam their home and have positively contributed to the

growth of Guam as educators, nurses, entrepreneurs, skilled workers, engineers, and every other profession.

Over BASTA's forty years of service to Guam, the organization has contributed to many non-profit and charitable organizations. BASTA has given generously to causes such as the Guam Lytico-Bodig Association, American Red Cross, Catholic Social Services, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Alee Shelter, Guam Diabetes Association, American Cancer Society and many others. BASTA also contributes to many causes in the Philippines during times of need and natural disaster, and supporting education efforts through the building and maintenance of school facilities.

A unique feature of BASTA is the youth branch of the organization. The BASTA Youth are made up of the children and young relatives of its members and are active in carrying out the mission of the organization. The BASTA Youth have raised funds to support the club through song and dance productions, which later morphed into what is now BASTA's annual Christmas caroling fundraising. BASTA has become a very popular group during the holiday season, performing their lively carols at venues across Guam to support their mission.

I congratulate the Batangas and Southern Tagalog Association of Guam on the occasion of their 40th Anniversary of serving the people of Guam. I join the people of Guam in thanking them for their contributions to our island.

ERIN TORMEY, FARMER OF THE
YEAR AWARD

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special spirit that glides along the coast of San Mateo County throughout the year. Her name is Erin Tormey and she is being honored by the Half Moon Bay Chamber of Commerce as Farmer of the Year. For all the farmers who have been recognized, Erin Tormey is certainly an awardee who stands out. She is an exceptional leader, inspirational personality, and an outstanding businesswoman. She is also deeply admired by all who know her, and for good reason.

Erin is the founder of the Half Moon Bay Farmers Market and the Pacifica Farmers Market. Since 2002 in Half Moon Bay, and 2007 in Pacifica, Erin has orchestrated a nutritious public health extravaganza for coastal residents. Her market draws producers and shoppers from distant points to offer quality fruits and vegetables at reasonable prices to local residents and to visitors.

By county standards, Erin Tormey is relatively new to agriculture, starting the Irish Ridge Ranch in 1996. She raises Heritage Layer hens and operates an apple orchard that grows Rare Pioneer and Heritage Apples.

Once established, Erin branched out to establish the farmers market and became active in community improvement through her advocacy for healthy farm products.

She recognized that many families did not know about the benefits of fresh produce and vegetables. Working with the State of California, her market was selected to participate as a pilot site for MARKET WATCH, a program to encourage low income families and seniors to shop at farmers markets. The market promotes nutrition education and was a statewide leader in participating in the WIC program. Low income families of our coastal communities count on Erin and her fellow farmers to balance their diets and to help them maintain healthy eating habits.

Erin's dedication to the coastsides extends beyond farming to education and to public engagement. She was the inaugural executive director of the Cabrillo Education Foundation. Imagine rising before the sun, harvesting eggs for the day, getting your children ready for school, and then raising your hand to raise money for their education. I note that she doesn't rise with the sun. That would be too late. Erin Tormey challenges the sun to rise and to keep up with her while she powers through her day.

In addition to her other accomplishments, Erin is a founding Director of the HEAL Project, an award-winning curriculum that teaches math and science through lessons drawn from agriculture. She is also a founding member of the San Mateo Food Systems Alliance. Among its many purposes, the group encourages gardens in schools to teach students about nutrition, cooperates with our local food bank, and encourages non-farmers to educate themselves about farming and its challenges.

California's agricultural leadership has recognized Erin's talents. She was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to a Direct Marketing Ad-hoc Committee, as an alternate, to help rework legislation governing certified Farmers Markets. She was also appointed to a 3-year term on the steering committee of the California Alliance of Certified Farmers Markets.

Finally, I know Erin well because we co-operate annually in producing one of the high points of the year for 700 seniors in San Mateo county and San Francisco: My annual Seniors on the Move conference held in San Mateo includes a segment to teach attendees about fresh food preparation and eating well to enhance their health and well-being. Erin's cheerful face and enthusiastic promotion of fresh fruits and vegetables are the highlight of this day. Seniors run or walk as swiftly as possible to where the free bags of fresh fruit and vegetables are dispensed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Erin Tormey on the occasion of her selection as Farmer of the Year. Her hens know her as the careful steward of their production but we know Erin as the thoughtful steward of our health and community spirit. May both her

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